

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NOTAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 346, the "NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023", which will be beneficial to the modernization of the safety, efficiency, and productivity of the future of aviation in the United States of America.

Specifically, this bill aims to reinvigorate the current system of Notice to Air Missions (NOTAMs) by pinpointing failures within the existing standards. This will be achieved by:

Aligning the NOAM and aeronautical information systems under a single governing office with the authority to standardize and ensure compliance with FAA Orders and ICAO requirements.

Redesigning the current NOTAM information management system with single technology gateways for entering, processing, and retrieving all NOTAM data.

Creating a unified training and outreach strategy for federal and non-federal NOTAM users.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and the Budget, it is my pleasure to support and urge members to strongly consider H.R. 346.

This bill aims to modernize flight across all The United States of America and not only increase the safety of the existing system of Notice to Air Missions (NOTAMs) but maximize its efficacy.

Mr. Speaker, hundreds of flights were grounded Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at Houston airports and across the nation's airports, domestic and international which the Federal Aviation Authority reported as a nationwide outage that was felt across the country.

Millions of Americans were grounded away from their homes, families and loved ones. The cause of this devastating outage was attributed to a computer system glitch.

More than 21,000 flights in the U.S. were scheduled to take off on January 11, 2023, mostly domestic trips, and about 1,840 international flights expected to fly to the U.S., according to aviation data firm Cirium.

"The FAA's infrastructure is a lot more than just brick and mortar." Investment in the agency is set to be addressed this year by Congress when the 5 year FAA Reauthorization Act signed in 2018 expires. Strong consideration for this bill should be thoughtfully considered.

Throughout the years we have lagged in advancing our aviation systems. The tragic events that transpired earlier this year could have been avoided, but "Because of budgetary concerns and flexibility of budget, this tech refresh has been pushed off."

AOPA recently surveyed 30,000 members about improving Notice to Air Missions

(NOTAMs), and 77 percent of respondents said making Notice to Air Missions (NOTAMs) easier to understand was important while 46 percent said addressing the number of Notice to Air Missions (NOTAMs) was important.

Sources and tragic instances have continuously given us warning signs plus evidence that our NOTAM system is an example of aging infrastructure that is considerably due for an overhaul.

This bill firmly establishes the strategic steps towards harnessing the will power of strengthening our domestic air space, our nationwide digital aviation infrastructure and cybersecurity measures.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 346, the "NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023".

HONORING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JAMES T. KOLBE

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 2023

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and public service exemplified by former Congressman James Thomas Kolbe.

With deep sadness, we mourn the loss of Congressman Jim Kolbe, who passed away on December 3, 2022 after a dedicated career of service to the Congress, his community, and his beloved Arizona.

A teenage Senate Page, Kolbe graduated from Northwestern University with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1965 and received a master's degree from the Stanford Graduate School of Business in 1967. He entered the Navy that year and served in combat duty on gunboats in the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal for Valor. After working as a Special Assistant to the Governor of Illinois, in 1976 he was elected to the first of his 3 terms as a member of the Arizona State Senate. 1984 saw his first election to the House of Representatives and Arizona's Fifth Congressional District. He represented his constituents with true distinction, a creative and conscientious legislator who consistently reached across the aisle and worked closely with colleagues across the political spectrum. A fierce champion of free trade and free markets, Pima County and Southern Arizona could always count on Jim Kolbe.

I extend sincere condolences to his spouse, Hector Alfonso, his family, and loved ones. I am grateful to have served with a public servant and public leader like Jim Kolbe. He will be missed.

STRATEGIC PRODUCTION RESPONSE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 21) to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil and gas production under oil and gas leases of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense in conjunction with a drawdown of petroleum reserves from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 21, the Strategic Production Response Act. Republicans brought H.R. 21 to the House Floor today to prohibit the Department of Energy from releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) until it expands oil and gas drilling on federal lands by the same percentage that it releases oil from the SPR.

House Republicans are once again doing the bidding of their Big Oil friends at Americans' expense, while threatening the President's ability to take timely action to lower prices for American consumers. When Putin invaded Ukraine and the oil prices soared worldwide, President Biden acted quickly to release oil from the SPR helping to lower gas prices for American families by \$1.69 per gallon since their peak. Restricting the federal government's best tool in the middle of a global energy crisis—with no benefit other than increasing the profits of the fossil fuel industry—is a disservice and will harm working families who will bear the brunt of this decision.

The fossil fuel industry is already sitting on approximately 9,000 approved but unused permits for drilling on public lands because they are more concerned with keeping supply artificially low so that prices can stay artificially high to line their own pockets. This legislation could result in giving the fossil fuel industry an additional over 30 million acres of public lands for new oil and gas drilling—that is over 5 times the size of Minnesota, and 8 times the amount of public lands and waters currently available for oil and gas development.

This bill will only make us more dependent on fossil fuels. The growing threat of climate change is real, and in order to protect our planet, we must reduce carbon emissions and embrace a sustainable energy future. Congress should use its power to invest in developing alternative energy sources and expanding federal incentives making them more affordable for American consumers.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 2023

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Huffman Amendment No. 15, Roll Call 46, on January 26. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 46.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REAL ESTATE LEASING AUTHORITY REVOCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 388—the Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act.

This bill would amend Title 40 of the United States Code and would limit the Securities and Exchange Commission's ability to lease general purpose office space.

The authority to lease general purpose of office space should be under the General Services Administration.

Involving the SEC in real estate leasing is useless, excessive, and redundant when GSA was created for that very reason.

This bill was first introduced in 2011 after the SEC engaged in improper sole-source procurement of nearly one million square feet of leased space.

In 2021, the SEC said that GSA will be used in the future for real estate procurements, but this bill would ensure that going forward.

This bill would also mandate the Comptroller General of the United States to submit reports on Independent Leasing Authorities to both House and Senate committees.

H.R. 388 would ensure that Congress is able to accomplish its constitutional obligations and enhance the efficiency and accountability of the federal government for the overall good of the American people.

Furthermore, due to the Comptroller General's reports measuring the effectiveness of spending policies, it is crucial that these independent leasing reports are updated without fault.

The government itself cannot operate effectively without such essential information being updated annually and being communicated to other committees and federal agencies that profit from such insight.

It is pertinent that the American public's tax dollars are being utilized efficiently and this bill will ensure that.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation that will ensure that the General Services Administration would be in charge of leasing office space for governmental agencies.

We must utilize federal funds properly and this legislation will be one step closer to that.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I missed the vote because I was meeting with constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on Roll Call No. 37.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CHARLES EDWIN SIMPSON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lt. Colonel Charles "Chuck" Edwin Simpson. Lt. Colonel Charles "Chuck" Edwin Simpson, U.S. Army, Retired, 93, of Harlem, Georgia, born September 29, 1929, in Fayetteville, AL, passed away peacefully Saturday, November 12, 2022.

Charles joined the army at 17 years of age and retired after 28 years of service. Within his time in the army, he ministered to many while traveling the world and obtaining a Master's degree of Electromagnetic Compatibility Analysis. He then settled in Harlem, Georgia, with his family, establishing Crosslands Nursery and developing a line of manufactured homes (Hutchinson and Herrli Homes). He later became deeply engaged with the Commission Project in the Ukraine and former Soviet Union.

He was an active member of Thomson Presbyterian Church and served on the Session of the Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of America. He touched the lives of many as a disciple, grandfather, and friend. He was a cheerful leader, an attentive listener, and loving "Papaw" to subsequent generations. He was cherished and loved, and will be greatly missed. His hobbies were farming, politics, and construction, but his greatest joy was family and leading others to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William Hood Simpson and Ellen Faulkner Simpson, his 9 brothers and sisters, and his wife, Margaret Acker Simpson (married February 14, 1954).

He is survived by his 4 children, Darlene "Faith" Bandre, Deborah "Debi" Mangham, Thomas "Tom" Simpson, and Donald "Tim" Simpson (Johnna); his sisters, Eleanor Griffin Ellis, Helen Reed; his brother Claude Simpson; 12 grandchildren; and 22 great grandchildren.

CONGRATULATING MR. MILAN MORA, P.E. ON BEING CHOSEN THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS 2022 JOHN W. MORRIS CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate engineer Milan Mora

of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, on his selection as the 2022 LTG John W. Morris Civilian of the Year.

In the recovery process from natural disasters, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been a reliable partner for emergency response as well as infrastructure construction and protection of river and coastal resources for Puerto Rico, Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Milan Mora has been a key part of this team, as the Chief of the Jacksonville District's Water Resources Branch.

Mr. Mora has shown true commitment to service in the protection of our communities and resources in the face of disasters and climate risks, and in support of American national security. In Puerto Rico he has been and continues to be a partner we can count on.

Having been chosen for this award by his colleagues shows their recognition and respect, and I join in congratulating him, a true friend of Puerto Rico, for this achievement.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE COORDINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 255 to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments.

Specifically, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act extends the deadline for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a study and develop a plan under which the collection of information from disaster assistance applicants and grantees will be made less difficult and time consuming for applicants and grantees.

H.R. 255 also would require FEMA to create a plan for the collection and reporting of data regarding federal disaster aid awarded.

In addition, FEMA must provide Congress with a detailed report on the strategies for organizing and expediting data collection, and preliminary damage assessments.

Natural disasters are occurring more often and are causing more damages and adverse impacts for Americans, including harm to homes and property.

On August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, just north of Corpus Christi, as a category 4 storm.

An estimated 13 million people were impacted by Harvey, nearly 135,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by the catastrophic flooding, and up to a million cars were totaled.

According to the National Hurricane Center, the storm caused \$125 billion in damages. Except for Hurricane Katrina, that number surpasses all previous natural disasters in American history.

In order to support reaction and recovery activities across 270,000 square miles, FEMA organized massive deployments of federal employees both before and after the hurricanes' landfalls.

Only \$571.8 million in FEMA aid was given to Texas households out of the disaster's \$125 billion in damages.